

**Draft Summary of the Land Use, Land Management and Aesthetics Work Group Meeting
Oroville Facilities Relicensing (FERC Project No. 2100)
August 25, 2003**

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) hosted a meeting for the Land Use, Land Management and Aesthetics Work Group (LULMAWG) on August 25, 2003 in Oroville.

A summary of the discussion, decisions made, and action items is provided below. This summary is not intended to be a transcript, analysis of the meeting, or to indicate agreement or disagreement with any of the items summarized, except where expressly stated. The intent is to present a summary for interested parties who could not attend the meeting. The following are attachments to this summary:

Attachment 1	Meeting Agenda
Attachment 2	Meeting Attendees
Attachment 3	Flip Chart Notes
Attachment 4	Draft Schedule for Plenary and Work Group Meetings (November 2003 – December 2004)
Attachment 5	Land Ownership in the Study Area
Attachment 6	Land Use in the Study Area
Attachment 7	Land Use Resource Action Matrix

Introduction

Attendees were welcomed to the LULMAWG meeting. Attendees introduced themselves and their affiliations. The Work Group reviewed the desired outcomes of the meeting. The meeting agenda and list of meeting attendees are appended to this summary as Attachments 1 and 2, respectively. Meeting flip chart notes are included as Attachment 3. The Facilitator distributed a revised meeting schedule for Work Group and Plenary meetings through December 2004, correcting an error in the Cultural Work Group meeting dates (Attachment 4).

Action Items – July 28, 2003 Land Use, Land Management and Aesthetics Work Group Meeting

A summary of the July 28, 2003 LULMAWG meeting is posted on the relicensing web site. The Facilitator reviewed the status of action items from that meeting as follows:

Action Item #LU67:	Report back to the LULMAWG regarding DWR's research into the fuel load liability issue (follow-up action item).
Status:	Jim Martin, Resource Area Manager for DWR spoke with DWR legal staff regarding fuel load liability issues and they are in the process of researching this issue. DWR legal staff will send the results of their research to Jim Martin for review once it is complete after which this information will be made available to the LULMAWG.
Action Item #LU70:	Arrange for field visit between DWR and Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) staff to discuss grazing issues in the project area, and report back to the Work Group.
Status:	DWR and DPR staff met in the field to evaluate and discuss the Campbell grazing lease located in the project area. Staff visited the site and discussed the conditions of the lease site and the future of the lease. Who should administer the lease (DWR or DPR) was brought up during the discussion of this item. DWR and DPR including DWR Land and Right-of-Way staff will coordinate directly with one another on future potential actions pertaining to this lease.

- Action Item #LU71:** E-mail draft version of Bulletin 250 (Fish Passage Plan) to consultant team for possible inclusion in SP-L3.
- Status: Bulletin 250 was e-mailed to Jim Martin and will be forwarded to Mark Greenig with EDAW for inclusion in SP-L3 (Comprehensive Plan Consistency).
- Action Item #LU72:** Follow-up with California Department of Forestry (CDF) regarding intent of potential Resource Action LWG-7.
- Status: CDF was contacted regarding this issue and indicated that their intent was for a medical rescue/fire suppression boat to be located on Lake Oroville. CDF has been asked to provide the specifications and price for such a boat. The boat would aid in fire suppression and land access particularly when lake levels are high. The LULMAWG discussed the potential to use less costly portable pumps that could be employed as necessary on existing CDF boats and agreed that CDF needs to make their case for a new boat through the submittal of a completed resource action information form.
- Action Item #LU73:** Re-send a revised matrix to the LULMAWG prior to the next meeting that includes the revisions discussed at the meeting, a new column for "category", and an initial attempt to complete the matrix cells.
- Status: The revised Resource Action matrix was e-mailed to the LULMAWG and hard copies of the matrix were also distributed. Resource actions were discussed in detail later in the meeting (see summary below).

Review of Plenary Group Meetings

The Plenary Group is not scheduled to meet in August 2003. They are currently awaiting resource action development status reports from the work groups. At their last meeting they discussed a categorization system for proposed resource actions that the various work groups could modify if necessary. The use of the categorization system was discussed later in the meeting (see summary below).

Study Implementation Update

The Consultant Team provided an update on all five Land Use, Land Management and Aesthetics study plans to the LULMAWG. Maps associated with the various studies were available for review at the meeting. It was noted that all interim reports for the various studies should be considered draft unless otherwise stated.

SP-L1 (Land Use)

Steve Pavich with EDAW provided an update on SP-L1. This study evaluates both land ownership and land use in the project area and is intended to provide FERC with a general overview of land use and ownership patterns. The land ownership mapping is based on several data sources obtained from various public agencies (i.e., DWR, California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), DPR, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and Butte County), which were then merged together to provide an overall depiction of land ownership inside the FERC boundary and within a ¼-mile buffer of the boundary (i.e., study area). These data were used "as-is" and have not been ground-truthed as part of this study. Steve noted that the land ownership mapping is not at a parcel level of detail and therefore should not be used for parcel-specific analysis. All revisions provided by DWR were incorporated into the ownership mapping. The amount of land owned by individual agencies (in acres) was presented in tabular form to the LULMAWG (see Attachment 5). It was suggested by LULMAWG participants that although DWR 'owns' the majority of land in the FERC boundary, the amount of land managed by others (both CDFG and DPR) is important and should be indicated within a footnote on the maps.

Revised land use maps were also available for LULMAWG review. The land use mapping effort is based predominantly on the vegetation mapping completed by DWR in support of relicensing. The

following major land use categories are being used for the purposes of SP-L1: Urban, Rural, Recreation, Conservation, Undeveloped/Habitat, Other, and Reservoir/Open Water. Complete descriptions of these categories will be included in the SP-L1 interim report. The amount of each land use (in acres) identified within the study area was presented to the LULMAWG (see Attachment 6). It was noted by LULMAWG participants that although the land ownership map indicates no private lands exist within the FERC boundary, the land use map indicates there are residential and other urban uses in the boundary. Steve suggested this discrepancy is probably the result of a digitizing error but will be reviewed by the Consultant Team.

SP-L2 (Land Management)

Land management maps have been developed for this study and include a depiction of how lands within the study area are currently managed. These maps are a compilation of various sources of management data and will be presented at the next LULMAWG meeting. SP-L2 focuses on planned (or allowable) land uses in the study area. How lands are currently being used is covered in SP-L1. It was noted that the Butte County General Plan is currently being updated and depending on the schedule for that effort, study report and maps may be modified accordingly.

SP-L3 (Comprehensive Plan Consistency)

The SP-L3 interim report had been previously distributed to the LULMAWG for review. This study is currently on hold, awaiting the disclosure of new plans to be included as appropriate and will ultimately be used to evaluate proposed resource actions that may become part of the project alternatives.

SP-L4 (Aesthetics)

Mark Greenig introduced Paul Curfman with EDAW who is assisting on this study. The interim report for SP-L4 will be available for LULMAWG review in October or November 2003.

SP-L5 (Fuel Load Management)

An interim report for SP-L5 has been prepared and reviewed by DWR and the LULMAWG. A resource action has been submitted by DPR related to fuel load management, based in part on information included in this study. Dave Bogener, DWR's terrestrial resources study lead requested information on various proposed fuel load management plans for use in modeling efforts associated with SP-T11 Effects of Fuel Load Management and Fire Prevention on Wildlife and Plant Communities. SP-L5 can only provide information on specific techniques available.

Potential Resource Action Development

A revised Resource Action (RA) matrix for the LULMAWG was distributed to participants (see Attachment 7). The matrix follows the model developed by other work groups with some modifications to meet the LULMAWG needs. The matrix has been revised based on suggestions made during the previous LULMAWG meeting. RAs have been added, combined and separated as appropriate, and matrix cells have been filled in.

A new column in the matrix that was drafted by DWR represents the categorization system developed first within the Environmental Work Group and subsequently discussed by the Plenary Group. This system organizes RAs into four categories: (1) ready for review; (2) waiting on information coming from study plans; (3) may require additional studies or adaptive management, or are "parked" meaning that it is likely to be considered in the settlement agreement but no studies are currently evaluating the issue; and (4) not recommended for further analysis (outside scope of relicensing, not a definable action, and/or redundant with another RA). Roger Masuda representing Butte County at the July Plenary Group meeting suggested that Category 3 be further divided into (3A) proposals that are supported for further review with additional study recommended by the Work Group and (3B) those that are not supported by the Work Group. The

Plenary Group made no recommendation regarding the use of this subdivision. The LULMAWG agreed to implement the categorization process for their potential RAs.

The identification of project nexus and its relationship to the settlement agreement was also discussed. The LULMAWG acknowledged that if a project nexus exists and a need is identified, a preferred RA could be included in the new license and thus subject to FERC enforcement. If no nexus exists or no need established but the licensee decides to do a preferred RA as an enhancement measure, the action could be included in the new license or it could become part of a settlement agreement and enforceable through other avenues similar to a contract.

The LULMAWG reviewed the individual RAs in the matrix and made revisions to the matrix. Several changes were made to clarify the descriptions of individual RAs. Matrix RA LWG-1 will be sent to the Recreation and Socioeconomics Work Group for evaluation. It was noted that Matrix RA LWG-3 is also being considered in the Recreation and Socioeconomics Work Group. Jim Martin will follow-up with the Oroville Field Division regarding the location of dump areas referenced in LWG-3. It was noted that SP-T10 is closely related to Matrix RA LWG-2A. Matrix RA LWG-2B was categorized as a 4 because DWR does not have jurisdiction outside the FERC boundary. Matrix RA LWG-4 was identified as a Category 3 and characterized as a two-part issue, with a land transfer necessary first.

It was acknowledged that Matrix RA LWG-7 needs more analysis (e.g., frequency of fires, similar activities at other reservoirs, etc.) and CDF needs to prepare a resource action information form to provide additional information. It was clarified that Matrix RA LWG-8 is addressing trash and not woody debris cleanup. DPR staff will prepare a resource action information form to clarify the intent of Matrix RA LWG-16. Gail Kuenster with DWR noted that Matrix RA LWG-17 must consider vernal pool issues when considering locations for tree plantings. Matrix RA LWG-18 was revised to address multiple billboards. Matrix RA LWG-17 and LWG-18 were identified as Category 1. Matrix RA LWG-20 requires coordination with the Recreation and Socioeconomics Work Group (SP-R4) and the Environmental Work Group (SP-T6).

After the evaluation process it was noted that there are three RAs classified as Category 1 that the LULMAWG agrees could be forwarded to the PDEA Team to begin environmental analysis. The LULMAWG was asked to review the matrix, considering the changes made and be prepared to provide additional comments at the September LULMAWG meeting. The goal is to quickly identify Category 1 RAs and indicate where and when information is expected from study plans to address Category 2 RAs so the PDEA Team can get started on their analysis. The PDEA will be used by FERC to develop an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the project. Ultimately, the RAs will be grouped into project alternatives for that effort.

Next Meeting and Next Steps

The next LULMAWG meeting will be:

Date: Monday, September 22, 2003

Time: 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Location: Sacramento (videoconferencing with the Oroville Field Division will be available)

The LULMAWG will continue to develop their RAs for eventual submittal to the Plenary Group and PDEA group for analysis as appropriate.

Action Items

The following list of action items identified by the LULMAWG includes a description of the action, the participant responsible for the action, and item status.

Action Item #LU74: Research discrepancies in the land use mapping and report back to the LULMAWG.

Responsible: Consultant Team

Due Date: September 22, 2003

Action Item #LU75: Transmit list of approved development projects in the study area to the PDEA Team as they are identified.

Responsible: Consultant Team

Due Date: on-going

Action Item #LU76: Forward RA LWG-1 to the Recreation and Socioeconomics Work Group for evaluation.

Responsible: DWR

Due Date: September 22, 2003

Action Item #LU77: Prepare resource action information form for RA LWG-16.

Responsible: DPR

Due Date: September 22, 2003

Action Item #LU78: Coordinate with the Oroville Field Division to identify the specific locations of dump areas referenced in RA LWG-3.

Responsible: Jim Martin (DWR)

Due Date: September 22, 2003

Carry-over Action Item:

Action Item #LU67: Report back to the LULMAWG regarding DWR's research into the fuel load liability issue.

Responsible: Jim Martin (DWR)

Due Date: September 22, 2003